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UNCLAS ANKARA 003157

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR PRM, E, EB, EUR/SE, NEA/NGA, AND IO  
NSC FOR QUANRUD AND BRYZA

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: USG CONTRACTOR BEGINS TO EXPORT TURKISH LPG AND  
GASOLINE TO IRAQ

REF: A) ANKARA 2915 B) KUWAIT 1825

1. (SBU) Summary: U.S. military contractor Kellogg, Brown, and Root (KBR) has successfully delivered its first shipment of Turkish Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) and gasoline from Turkey to Iraq, which will be donated as humanitarian assistance to Iraqi civilians. The U.S. military has contracted KBR to purchase and transport approximately 700 metric tons of LPG and one million gallons of benzine to Iraq daily, seven days per week, for at least four weeks. The GOT has thus far facilitated the purchase and transport of this fuel, which should bring at least USD 40 million to the Turkish economy. End summary.

2. (SBU) After receiving a task order from Task Force Restore Iraqi Oil (TF Rio) o/a May 7, U.S. military contractor Kellogg, Brown and Root (KBR) began arrangements to export Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) and benzine (gasoline) from Turkey to Northern Iraq (ref A). The task order authorizes KBR to purchase LPG and gasoline commercially in Turkey and transport it into Iraq to be donated as humanitarian assistance to Iraqi civilians through TF Rio. KBR expects to purchase and transport approximately 700 metric tons of LPG and one million gallons of benzine to Iraq daily, seven days per week, for at least four weeks. (Note: We understand that TF Rio is likely to increase these quantities and the duration of the operation. End note.) Embassy requested and received from the Turkish MFA assurances that the GOT would take steps to expedite the purchase and transport of this humanitarian assistance to Iraq.

3. (SBU) The contractor estimates that exporting this amount of LPG and benzine will require approximately 240 trucks per day -- 40 trucks for the LPG, and 200 trucks for the benzine. Although KBR expects it will take at least a week to arrange daily export of these quantities, it launched a successful trial run over the past three days. From May 10 to May 12, 93 trucks passed through Harbur Gate into Iraq: 54 trucks carrying approximately 300,000 gallons of benzine, and 39 trucks carrying approximately 800 metric tons of LPG. We understand there have been delays in loading the trucks in Turkey as well as off-loading in Iraq, but it appears these delays are part of the normal learning curve associated with staging an operation of this size.

4. (U) The embassy issued a press release May 10 announcing that the first convoy carrying humanitarian assistance LPG and gasoline had crossed into Iraq from Turkey. The press release notes that Turkey is cooperating with the U.S. in providing this HA to the people of Iraq by facilitating the passage of the vehicles. It also notes that the U.S. is purchasing and transporting this fuel using Turkish firms, and estimates the U.S. government will spend nearly USD 40 million in Turkey in the first month of this operation.  
PEARSON